



AECST
FOUNDED 1792



CHOSEN 300 SUNDAY
WITH HOMILIST, THE REVEREND BRIAN JENKINS,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CHOSEN 300

THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS • FIRST BLACK EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN THE USA
THE VERY REVEREND CANON MARTINI SHAW, 17TH RECTOR
THE REVEREND FR. DAREN E. EVANS, ASSOCIATE TO THE RECTOR
6361 LANCASTER AVENUE (ABSALOM JONES WAY) • PHILADELPHIA, PA 19151 • (215) 473-3065
WWW.AECST.ORG • WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/AECST1792

**THE NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
CHOSEN 300 SUNDAY/
The Feast of St. Francis of Assisi
October 8, 2023**

“WELCOME TO THE MOTHER CHURCH”

“Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. Give thanks unto Him and bless His name”.

Psalm 100:4

Grace and Peace to you from God on this
The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

On behalf of the Clergy, Wardens, Vestry, and People of God, welcome to the historic African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas, founded in 1792 as the first Black Episcopal Church in the U.S.A. The first rector of this historic parish, The Rev. Fr. Absalom Jones was also the first Black Episcopal priest in the nation.

Our parish boldly proclaims the reconciling Gospel of Jesus Christ. We are an active, mission-minded, and growing church family. Whomever you are and wherever you may find yourself on your spiritual journey of faith, you are always welcomed at St. Thomas' Church, where we are joyfully and enthusiastically committed to Jesus' message of love, hope, prayer, acceptance, and faith. Today, as you worship in this place, may you experience and feel the presence of the Lord, and may you leave feeling renewed, refreshed, and revived.

Faithfully,

The Very Rev. Canon Martini Shaw,
17th Rector and Dean of the Schuylkill Deanery

Please click on the link provided
for the [Order of Service](#) for this Sunday.



AECST
FOUNDED 1792

THE ANNUAL BLESSING OF ANIMALS

IN CELEBRATION OF The Feast of St. Francis of Assisi



THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS • FIRST BLACK EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN THE USA
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MEMBER INFORMATION FORMS

In an effort to get correct member information, we are asking **EVERY** parishioner to fill out a Member form. The church has received many returned mailings because of bad addresses. We would appreciate your new address, phone number, and email address. Please fill out the [form](#) and return it to the [church office email](#). Please fill out 1 form for each adult member of your family, children may go on one of the forms. Thanks so much for your help with this.

STEWARDSHIP KICK-OFF:

As we kick off Stewardship Month please pray about your Faithful Giving for 2024. We want a strong kick-off to support our budget and many endeavors and outreach projects at St. Thomas. You'll be able to either complete your Faithful Giving Card or go on our website, Spearhead, Facebook page, or this [link](#) to complete your Faithful Giving Card. You can also mail your Faithful Giving Card or bring it to the Altar at Church. We've included the Faithful Giving link for your convenience.

Ashley and Kevin Quetant and St. Thomas welcome into our church family, **Luna Marie Quetant** and give thanks for her birth. May God Bless her.





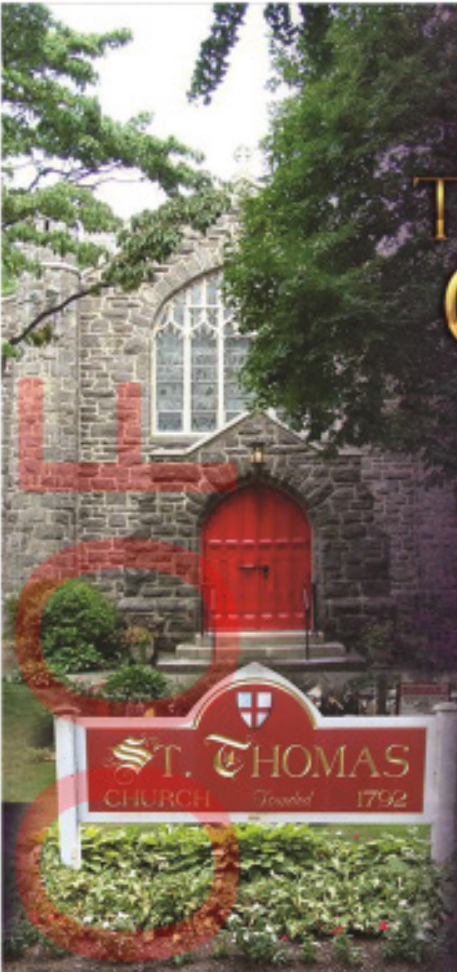
We welcome into our church family and give thanks for new member, **Yvonne Verlicchi**. Her shepherd will be **Cynthia Muse**. We look forward to getting to know her.

Prayers and Condolences for the family of **Benes Reginald Lawrence**. His funeral will be here on Thursday, **October 12, 2023**. Visitation/Fraternity Ritual: 9:00 AM. Requiem Mass: 10:00 AM. May the soul of Benes rest in peace and rise in eternal glory. Please pray for the family.



A Memorial for **Louise Lewis** will be held at St. Thomas on Thursday, **October 19, 2023**. Visitation/Fraternity Ritual: 9:00 AM. Requiem Mass: 10:00 AM. May the soul of Louise rest in peace and rise in eternal glory. Please pray for the family.

Condolences and Prayers to the family of **Rosalind Dorothy Walker Rodriguez**. Her service will be here on Tuesday, **October 17, 2023**. Visitation 9:00 AM. Requiem Mass: 10:00 AM. May the soul of Rosalind rest in peace and rise in eternal glory.



THE GERALDINE B. WOOD COLUMBARIUM

"AN HONORED TRADITION"

THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF SAINT THOMAS
6361 LANCASTER AVENUE | PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19151
215.473.3065 | WWW.AECST.ORG




THE VERY REVEREND CANON MARTINI SHAW, RECTOR



ST. THOMAS
CHURCH *Founded 1792*

I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE.



CREMATION AND BURIAL TRADITIONS

From earliest times, people have been concerned about their final earthly resting place, often with concern that it be near the gathering place of their families. In Christian times, preferred burial space was within the Church itself where the faithful gathered for celebrating a liturgy or for a prayer service. The dual tradition of burial and of cremation was preserved in both ancient and in Christian times. More recently, consideration of the spiritual and the practical aspects of cremation and inurnment within the Church itself has led to a revival of this aspect of the tradition. When space within the Church was no longer available, the churchyard cemetery developed. Only in recent times have burial grounds, far removed from the community centers of life and prayer, (Laurel Hill Cemetery, Historic Eden Cemetery) been used.

THE COLUMBARIUM

A Columbarium is a vault with recessed metal compartments of niches for placing earthly remains after cremation. The cremated earthly remains are preserved in niches in a Columbarium fittingly designed and prepared. Each metal niche is enclosed with a protective front of wood, to which is attached a bronze identification plate for the appropriate name and date of death. The dual tradition of burial and cremation was preserved in ancient and Christian times.

The African Episcopal Church of Saint Thomas has constructed three structures consisting of 220 niches that can accommodate 440 urns along the Southeast wall in the Absalom Jones Chapel area. Eligible persons and active members of the African Episcopal Church of Saint Thomas and their families can purchase a niche. The opening date for the Columbarium was November 1996. A Columbarium Committee composed of four persons and the Parish Rector will govern and administer the affairs of the Columbarium. The Committee has established and will administer the policies and regulations governing sales, maintenance and expansions as was initially established by an 11-member task force.

Niches may be reserved by advance purchase, at the time of need, singly, or for family groups. The purchaser gets a Certificate of Ownership, which indicates a choice of niches. The Certificate entitles a person to a bronze nameplate and assurance of perpetual care. Orders and/or deposits are now being received. Selection of a niche will only occur upon receipt of final payment.

If you are interested in receiving more information on the Columbarium, please contact the Church Office at 215-473-3065 or the Columbarium committee c/o Victoria A. Mosley Rivers at 215-878-3651 or 267-253-2899.

Pew Plaques All Saints' Day-November 4, 2023

Pew Memorial Plaques: \$500.00 Payment Deadline: **October 15, 2023**. Contact Victoria Rivers for more information at 267-253-2899 and [email](#).



Due to current public health policies, the Division of Community Health of the University of Pennsylvania will not be able to provide COVID vaccines at this time. Therefore, **the vaccination clinic scheduled for Saturday, October 28, 2023 at St. Thomas has been cancelled**. Please get the COVID, FLU, and RSV vaccines at a local retail chain in your community.

AECST/CHOSEN 300 Community OUTREACH

Calling Volunteers to Serve @ Chosen 300 locations

Arrive at 4:30pm – Directions will be given – Completed by 7:30pm, 2023 SERVING DATES :



Friday , July 14th : 1116 Spring Garden Street, Phila, PA. 19123

Monday, July 17th : 3959 Lancaster Ave, Phila. PA 19104

Friday, Sept. 15th : 1116 Spring Garden Street, Phila, PA. 19123

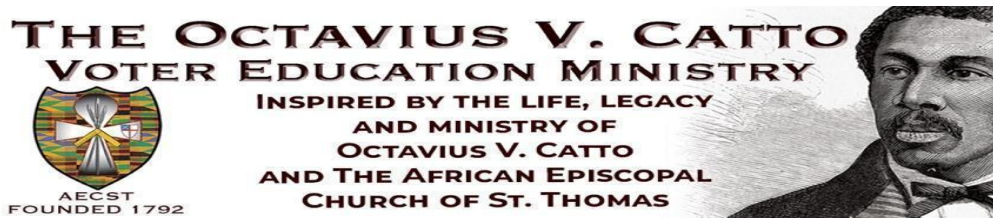
Friday, Nov. 17th : 1116 Spring Garden Street, Phila, PA. 19123

Monday, Nov 20th: Lancaster Ave, Phila. PA 19104



For Any Questions, please contact Dr. Tim Barksdale at 215-868-6766

"Whoever shuts their ears to the cry of the poor will also cry out and not be answered." Proverbs 21:13



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF OCTAVIUS V. CATTO

Empowering Communities Through Civic Engagement

PHILADELPHIA, PA – September 27, 2023 – The Octavius V. Catto Voter Education Ministry will celebrate and honor the life and legacy of Octavius V. Catto by encouraging Philadelphians to vote therefore empowering communities with resources in preparation for the Tuesday, November 7th General Election.

On **Sunday, October 15, 2023**, the voter education ministry will celebrate and host community educational events focused on the voting process and highlight Octavius' legacy, exemplified daily by his statue on the southwest corner of City Hall. Our activities include: educating the congregation of St. Thomas and the community; updating voter registration information; and demonstrating how to fill out a mail-in/absentee ballot correctly. According to WHYY, between 2014 and 2022, Pennsylvania saw a 19.5% increase in voter turnout among 18-29 year-olds. The Catto Ministry will also empower young voters with activities to encourage them to get out and vote.

Philadelphia Mayor, Jim Kenney will make remarks to support local civic engagement. **Pat Christmas** of the **Committee of Seventy** will also be in attendance to support the activities and the importance of voting.

The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas Octavius V. Catto service and celebration begin at 10 a.m. After-service events and activities will be held in Anderson Hall and Absalom Jones House, 6361 Lancaster Avenue, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

For more information, please visit, www.AECST.org or www.FaceBook.com/AECST1792.

About The AECST Octavius V. Catto Voter Education Ministry

Inspired by the life, legacy, and ministry of Octavius V. Catto, this is an initiative of the African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas (AECST) to encourage voter registration and participation in our community.

Contact:

Ernestine Johnson or Julio Rodriguez at cattoministry@aecst.org



Social Media Hashtags

#OVCGoVote

#OVCGoVote2023

#AECSTVotes

###

ATTENTION ALL MEN OF ST. THOMAS*
(Ages 18 - 102 years old)

St. Thomas Men's Ministry and Fellowship: A Gathering of men in fellowship!!! **Saturday, October 21, 2023, 8:30 AM.**

A conversation with our own R. Seth Williams, President and C E.O. Second Chance Strategies, LLC; former District Attorney of Philadelphia. "Crime Prevention & Recidivism Reduction"

Please **RSVP** today. Refreshments will be served



**A REMINDER TO ALL GUILDS, ORGANIZATIONS, MINISTRIES,
AND INDIVIDUALS:**

ANY and **ALL** Activities using the church facilities (ie; Anderson Hall, the Undercroft, the church) or the Absalom Jones House **MUST** be scheduled and approved by the Parish Administrator: **Gladyce DuBrey** or call (215-473-3065) and **NOT the SEXTON** beforehand.

It is **VERY IMPORTANT** that all activities are listed on the calendar of the Parish Office.

Pictures from the Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost October 1, 2023



More Pictures may be found on our [Facebook page](#).

This Week at AECST - October 9, 2023

Monday 10/9

Church and Offices closed for Indigenous People's Day

Tuesday 10/10

No Bible Study with Fr. Jay

Wednesday 10/11

No Young Adult Bible Study

Gospel Choir - 7:30 PM

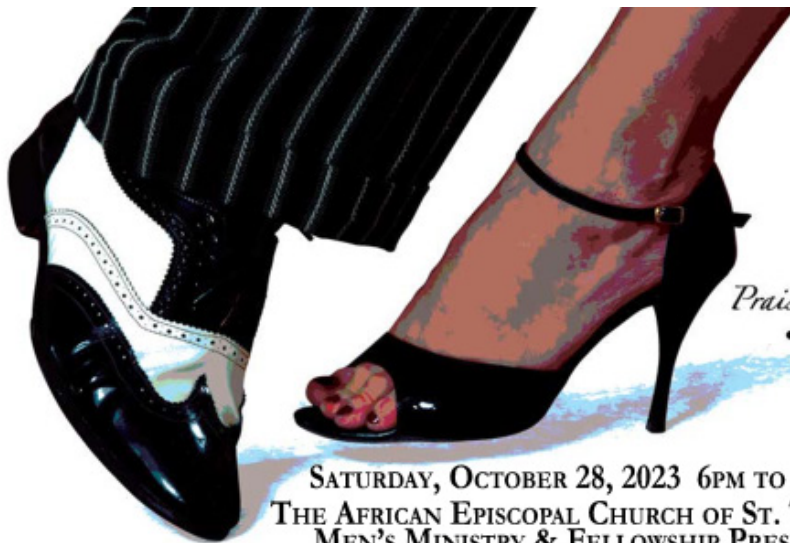
Thursday 10/12

The funeral of Benes Lawrence - Viewing at 9:00 AM
and Requiem Mass at 10:00 AM

Saturday 10/14

Vestry meeting - 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Scouts 1:00 -4:00 PM



- Dance, Caribbean, Praise & Line Dance Music
- Complimentary Set-ups
- Free Parking
- Cash Raffle

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2023 6PM TO 10PM
THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS
MEN'S MINISTRY & FELLOWSHIP PRESENTS

~Old School Cabaret~

THE NARBETH FIRE HALL
100 CONWAY AVENUE, NARBETH PA 19072
TICKETS \$15.00 PER PERSON \$25.00 PER COUPLE

FOR INFORMATION & TICKETS CONTACT:
MIKE ARCHY 215-983-3939 OR ED GIEGER 716-207-0405

DRESS LIKE YOU'RE BLESSED & READY TO HAVE AN ENJOYABLE EVENING!

BRING AND SHARE FAVORITE FOODS, BEVERAGES AND DESSERTS
PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT MEN'S FELLOWSHIP OUTREACH INITIATIVES

THE VERY REV. CANON MARTINI SHAW, RECTOR • 6361 LANCASTER AVENUE • PHILADELPHIA, PA 19151 • (215) 473-3065

UPCOMING SUNDAYS IN OCTOBER

October 8th - Chosen 300 Sunday with homilist, The Rev. Brian Jenkins, Executive Director of Chosen 300.

The Feast of St. Francis of Assisi (Blessing of the Animals)

This year, the animals of our family will be blessed by placing their photo, their ashes, or anything that belongs to your pet to be blessed.

October 15th - Octavius V. Catto Observance

Guest: Philadelphia Mayor, Jim Kenney and Homilist: The Rev. Dr. Michael Byrd. Founder /CEO Forum Philly.

October 22nd - Youth and Young Adult Sunday Breast Cancer Awareness Sunday

October 29th - Judicial Sunday

The Honorable John M. Younge, speaker, U.S. District Judge.

A.E.C.S.T. Kid Friendly Trunk and Treat

Sunday, October 29, 2023, 12:00 Noon -(in the parking lot).

Bring your little ghosts and goblins, princesses, and superheros to join in the fun in costume or not.

Ages 12 and under. Volunteers needed to decorate your trunk and pass out candy. Please email [Gladyce](#) in the [church office](#).

ONLY
\$15
Per plate



Pre orders available for pick up at 12PM!!!

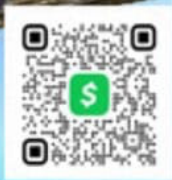
Friday October 13th 12 noon to 5pm

Fish Fry!

Featuring Chef D
Whiting • Cole Slaw
and French Fries



Sweet Potato Pie and Peach Cobbler slices \$2
(Desserts sold separately and in person while supplies last)



Contact Kathy Huggins 215 471 1020

\$19thPDAC CashApp - (for platters only)
Note your cell# & who referred you

**In the parking lot across from the 19th Police precinct
61st and Haverford Ave (rain or shine)**



RE-IMAGINING OUR MINISTRIES

Persons are needed:

-to lift their voices on the **Comfort Choir** during funeral services at St. Thomas. Please contact [D. Lynn Joell](#) if interested.

-to serve with the **Sound Ministry** for Sunday morning service and weekday funeral services. If interested, please contact Gladyce in the Parish Office.

-to serve on the **Altar Guild**. This amazing group of individuals prepares our altar each week for the Celebration of the Holy Eucharist. Interested people should contact [Alfreda Brockman](#).

-to serve as **Readers and Intercessors** to read the Holy Scripture during our weekly services. Interested persons should contact Gladyce in the Parish Office to sign up.

-to join the **Transportation Ministry**. The main mission of the ministry is to provide transportation to parishioners who attend Sunday Service who may be parked in a nearby remote parking lot. Please contact Gladyce in the office if you are interested.

-as **Acolytes** to serve on the altar. Please contact [Fr. Daren](#) if you are interested.

-**Photography Ministry** is in need of additional photographers. You do not need to be a professional photographer but do enjoy taking pictures. Anyone interested can contact [Bill Edmonds](#) or [Dale Williams](#).

-**The Shepherds Ministry** is still in need of many more volunteers to be able to shepherd all households of our congregation. Shepherds set their own schedules to be in regular touch with their households of sheep by phone, email, text or various social media platforms. Each is assigned no more than 4 households. All Ministry meetings are held via Zoom. Please note that the Vestry will continue to shepherd, for one year, all new members joining the congregation. For more information, or to volunteer, please contact [Charlene M. Wiltshire](#).

You are invited to pray and walk with thousands of Black women across the country for Girl Trek's 9-day **(October 15-23)** Prayer Trek. Our team won in 2017. Sign up at www.prayertrek.org. Select "Find your Church Crew" on the website and register under African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas - Women and Girls.



GirlTREK
2
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2
3
**PRAYER
TREK**

**OCTOBER
15-23**

SCAN HERE



To learn more and sign up visit www.prayertrek.org

If you're battling unhealthy habits, if you're in a season of despair and your faith is wavering, or you're in a season of abundance and looking to touch and agree with others who believe that blessings multiply when we join together, this is the place for you."

Each year, GirlTREK puts the call out to its sisters in the army of the Lord to cover ourselves in prayer, ground ourselves in the word, lace up our sneakers, and practice the Fruit of the Spirits in accordance with 9 fruits in the bible (Galations 5:22-23).

How it Works:

WALK

Just 30 min a day

Just 30 minutes a day. We'll provide you with scripture and a daily meditation to help you reflect on the Lord and your wellbeing.

WORSHIP

daily prayer line

Join our daily prayer line as we ask the Lord to heal our bodies and transform our communities.

WITNESS

Don't let your sisters miss their blessing. Encourage the women in your church to sign up at www.prayertrek.org.

As seen on

CNN **npr** **TED** **theRoot** **The New York Times** **ESSENCE**

**Kid
Friendly!
Ages 12 &
Under**

AECST

**Volunteers
needed to
decorate your
trunk and hand
out candy!**

TRUNK OR TREAT

Come and Join Us!

October 29th

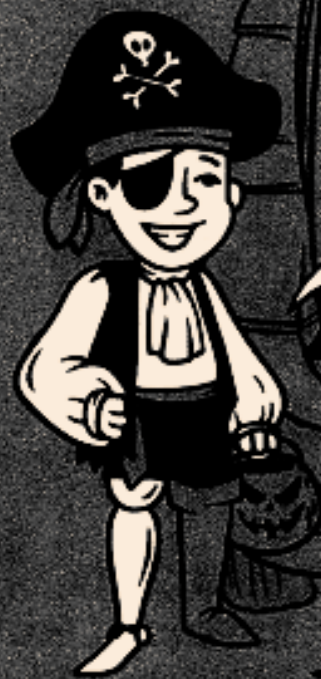
**Costumes optional
but encouraged!**

Starts at 12:00PM

Location: AECST Parking Lot

**Bring your little ghosts, goblins, princesses,
and superheroes to join in the fun!**

**Please contact Gladycce in the church office at
215-473-3065 or 1792@aecst.org**



**The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas (The First Black Episcopal Church in the USA)
The Very Reverend Cannon Martini Shaw, 17th Rector
6361 Lancaster Avenue (Absalom Jones Way) Philadelphia, PA 19151
www.AECST.org www.Facebook.com/AECST1792**



Nikkol Simms
Branch Advisor
njsimms@verizon.net

For more info:
<http://gfsus.org/>

Find us on Facebook!
GFS PA African
Episcopal Church of St.
Thomas

GIRLS' FRIENDLY SOCIETY

GFS is ready to begin a new year of worship, study, play and service! We are excited to recharge our continuous mission of uplifting our young ladies and preparing them for today's society. We are also preparing for this year's theme to Love, Serve, and Grow and remembering our 75+ years of legacy at St. Thomas.

We meet Saturday mornings

**First meeting:
September 30, 2023
11am-1pm**

Membership Ages:

Teddy Bears: 3-5 yo.

Junior Members: 5-13 yo.

Senior Members: 14-21 yo.

Ambassadors: 18-30 yo.

Girls participate in:

Service Projects

Girl Talks

Arts & Crafts

World Day of Prayer

Founder's Day

Mission Day

GFS Day

Past Recreational Opportunities:

White water rafting

Theaters

Museums

Ice Skating

Segway/Ziplining

Mini Golf

Holiday House in Cape May, NJ

GFS World Council Sri Lanka 2026

Calling for Youth Acolytes!



All youth of our church are invited to serve in the AECST Acolyte Ministry. No prior experience is needed as training will be provided. This is an excellent way for our children and youth to be involved in the life of the church. For more information please speak with [Fr. Daren](#).



Young Adult Bible Study

Fr. Daren is offering a Bible Study series for Young Adults on Wednesdays at 6:00 PM.

Fall Topic:

“If It’s Not About Love, It’s Not About God”

THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS

CHURCH SCHOOL RETURNS!

OCTOBER 1st, 2023

CALLING ALL AECST
YOUTH AGES 4 THRU HIGH SCHOOL
EVERY SUNDAY AT 10:00 AM

CHURCH SCHOOL THEME FOR 2023

“EXCITING STORIES OF THE BIBLE”



REGISTRATION STARTS AUGUST 13, 2023
IN PERSON OR USING OUR REGISTRATION LINK
[HTTPS://FORMS.GLE/44FHDMXzFK6ATNUFA](https://forms.gle/44FHDMXzFK6ATNUFA)

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The registration form may be found [here](#)



RETURNING SOON!!!

Wednesday Healing Mass

A short (half-hour) service of Scripture, Prayer, Laying on of hands, Anointing, and Holy Eucharist.

Watch this space for date!



SAVE THE DATE - SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2023

Friends of the Historical Society are inviting all members of St. Thomas to join us on Saturday, **November 4, 2023**, to see the Forten Exhibit at the Museum of the American Revolution!!

As you may know, James Forten, a member of our congregation and the Vestry, was an extraordinary entrepreneur, a philanthropist, and a friend of Rev. Absalom Jones. Stay tuned for more details. By the way, have you seen the James Forten plaque?

WHERE IS THE ST. THOMAS GOSPEL CHOIR?????

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST CHURCH PRESENTS

St. Thomas Gospel Choir



In Concert
Under the direction of Walt Blocker



SATURDAY
OCTOBER 7, 2023 - 6:30PM

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST
ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
35 William St | Pittston, PA 18640
REV. JOSEPH ELSTON, RECTOR

DO YOU PLAY A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT?

Have you ever thought about using that talent to glorify God in worship? Please prayerfully consider joining our St. Thomas Jazz Ensemble, St. Thomas Chancel Choir or St. Thomas Gospel Choir. If interested, please contact Gladyce in the Parish Office ASAP to get details on upcoming scheduled rehearsals.

Join the St. Thomas Gospel Choir

led by Walker Blocker and Conference Attendees will perform together at the Bent But VBroken Conference on November 4th. Click on the [link](#) for more information.



FLEA Market

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

THE WOMEN'S DAY MARKETPLACE

New DATE!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2023

[RAIN DATE: 10.21.23]

9am-4pm

*Held on the Grounds of The Historic
African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas Church
6361 Lancaster Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19151*

**Showcase your unique Crafts,
Collectibles, Vintage
and Gift items...
and turn them into cash!**

**Reserve your
Space Today!**
(before 10.11.23)

To receive your reservation form

Contact:

Yvonne Caldwell White
luyes@icloud.com

Deborah Matthews
debmadanco@verizon.net

*Hosted by the
2023 AECST Women's Day Committee*

*The Historic African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas
The Very Reverend Canon Martini Shaw – 17th Rector
Reverend Fr. Daren E. Evans – Associate Rector*

**Bring your
unwanted
Gold, Silver &
Diamond
Jewelry
And
a certified
jeweler will
appraise it and
you'll get
CASH on the
spot!**

**\$30.00
BYOT**
*(Space & bring
your own Table)*

\$35.00
**Reserve space
+ Table**
*(Table will be
provided for you)*



AECST
FOUNDED 1792

SUNDAY

OCTOBER 15, 2023, 10:00 AM

PLEASE JOIN US FOR
THE ANNUAL
CELEBRATION

OF THE
LIFE

OF
OCTAVIUS V. CATTO

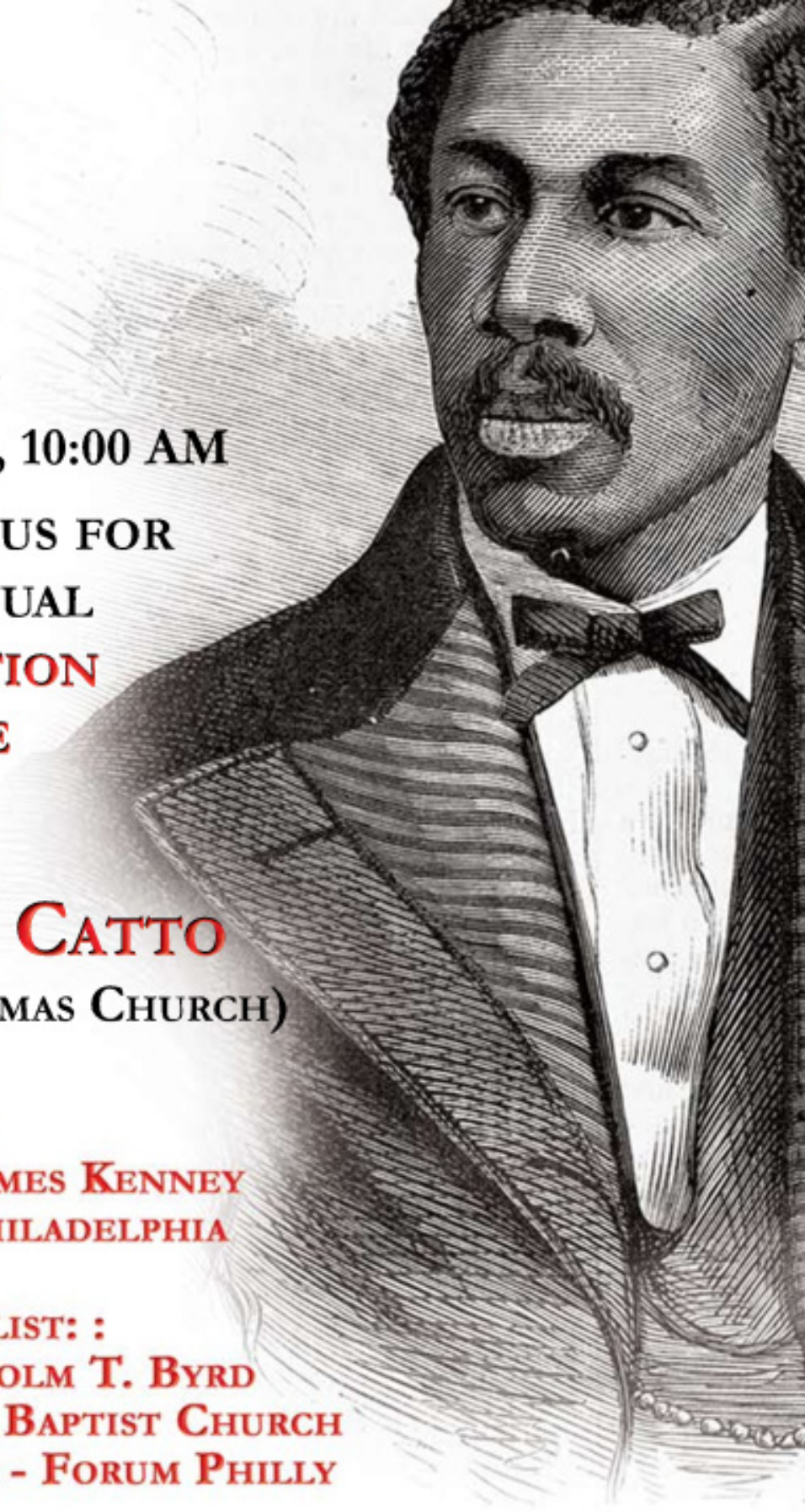
(MEMBER OF ST. THOMAS CHURCH)

GUEST:

THE HONORABLE JAMES KENNEY
MAYOR, CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

GUEST HOMILIST: :

THE REV. DR. MALCOLM T. BYRD
PASTOR, HOPE'S BEACON BAPTIST CHURCH
& FOUNDER AND C.E.O. - FORUM PHILLY



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**Attention!! Attention!! Your Vote Matters!!
Come join the Catto Ministry**

My VOTE will Count!! My VOTE Will Count!!

With a focus on the Philadelphia elections.

October 15, 2023, Octavius V. Catto Sunday

Come & bring a friend or two for our church service that will hopefully inspire you to Vote and stay afterward to register Folks to Vote, practice using the new electronic poll book, bring your Mail-in Ballot and fill it out correctly and take it to a drop box – Make sure that Your VOTE will Count!!!! Get resources from the city, state & federal Folks. We anticipate activities for teens & young adults around voting and civic engagement. We will serve light fare.

If you are interested, if you have questions, please contact Wendella Fox at 215-880-4936.

Our St. Thomas Catto Ministry Leadership Team



Ernestine Johnson



Wendella Fox



Ted Smith

Octavius V. Catto Ministry is calling you to a Planning meeting on October 8, 2023 immediately following service in the AJ House OR on October 9, 2023, at 7:00 PM via Zoom for a successful Octavius V. Catto Sunday on October 15th. We are asking members of the congregation who are interested and available to attend one of these two meetings so that we can plan for a successful October 15, 2023, Catto Sunday. We need volunteers to help. If you need the Zoom link for October 9, 2023, at 7:00 PM. Please contact Wendella Fox by [Phone](#) or [email](#). With gratitude Ernestine Johnson, Ted Smith, and Wendella Fox. The Octavius V. Catto Voter Education Ministry Leadership Team.



OCTAVIUS V. CATTO VOTER EDUCATION MINISTRY
PRESENTS ...

**"MY VOTE
WILL COUNT!"**

**JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE
THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF
O. V. CATTO
RESOURCE DAY!**

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2023
11:30 AM - 1:30 PM**

**THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH
OF ST. THOMAS - ANDERSON HALL**

~LIGHT REFRESHMENTS SERVED~

- GATHER INFORMATION FROM
LOCAL, STATE AND FEDERAL RESOURCES
- MAKE SURE YOU CORRECTLY FILL OUT YOUR
MAIL- IN BALLOT
[BRING IT WITH YOU TO FILL IT OUT]
- GATHER INFORMATION FROM LOCAL
SERVICE AND RESOURCE ORGANIZATIONS
- ANTICIPATE HAVING ACTIVITIES
FOR TEENS AND YOUNG ADULTS

FOR QUESTIONS EMAIL: WPFOX3008@VERIZON.NET

**THE OCTAVIUS V. CATTO VOTER EDUCATION MINISTRY
IS A NON-PARTISAN MINISTRY OF THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS**

THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS • FIRST BLACK EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN THE USA

THE VERY REVEREND CANON MARTINI SHAW, 17TH RECTOR

THE REVEREND FR. DAREN E. EVANS, ASSOCIATE TO THE RECTOR

6361 LANCASTER AVENUE (ABSALOM JONES WAY) • PHILADELPHIA, PA 19151 • (215) 473-3065

WWW.AECST.ORG • WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/AECST1792

ALTAR FLOWERS

Flowers on the High Altar, Absalom Jones Altar, and Free Standing Altar are in Loving Memory of **Nathan "Jerry" Lyons**, given by Deidre Patterson.

Flowers on the High Altar are in Loving Memory of **Gail W. Lowe**, given by James T. Lowe, Jr.

To order flowers, please return the form with payment to: Clare Mae Daniels or Alfreda Brockman. (Please do not place it in the collection plate or give to the church office.) Thank you.

- I would like to place flowers on the High Altar - \$60.
- I would like to place flowers on the Absalom Jones Altar - \$50.
- I would like to place flowers on the Columbarium - \$40.

(Please PRINT/ TYPE. You may use an additional piece of paper for more names.)

A) In memory of _____

B) In Thanksgiving for _____

Given by _____

Envelope # _____ Amount \$ _____

AECST LIVE STREAM

Please join us for Worship on the St. Thomas [website](#), the [Live Service](#), or on our [Facebook](#) page or [youtube](#) every Sunday morning at 10:00 AM. You can also watch [Past Services](#).

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR PARISHIONERS WHO ARE:

IN HOSPITAL:

Sheryl Johnson - Jefferson Hospital, Joe Stevenson - Temple Hospital.

IN REHAB:

Helena Allen - Simpson House; Thelma Silvers - Penn Rehab.

RECOVERING AT HOME:

R. Seth Williams, Linda Holmes, Ashley Williams, Ashley Quetant.

KEEP IN PRAYER:

Adinah Edwards, Robert Brown, Joe Stevenson, Justin Trotman, Georgia Sawyer, Shirley Caldwell, Joan Hall, Stephanie Williamson, Leotta Griffith, Kenneth Dow, Ridart "Butch" Farmer, Gwendolyn Langford, Teri Taylor, Eleanor Chestnut, Dorothy Smith, Dr. Alice Bowman-Cropper, Daryn Stewart, Sheryl Johnson, Shirley Winkfield, Dr. Thomas Snowden, Dr. Walter Bantom, Bill Edmonds, Leatrice Snowden, Lemont Johnson, Laverne Hudson, Cathy Stafford, Harold Yates, William Smalls, Alletta Parris-Olday, Ronald Coleman, Fr. Jay Collins, Tyrone Keller, Seminarian David King, Conchetta Brewer, Joyce Jackson, Lisa Woodley, Fr.Darryl James.

WE PRAY FOR

those who are Incarcerated and their families, as well as those affected by their actions.

DAILY RECOMMENDED BIBLE READINGS

Readings for:

The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

October 8, 2023

The First Lesson: [Exodus 20:1-4,7-9,12-20](#)

[Psalm 19](#)

The Second Lesson: [Philippians 3:4b-14](#)

The Holy Gospel: [Matthew 21:33-46](#)

**The Holy Gospel Readings for the
Week of October 9, 2023**

Monday - [Luke 6:39-49](#)

Tuesday - [Luke 7:1-17](#)

Wednesday - [Luke 7:18-35](#)

Thursday - [Luke 7:36-50](#)

Friday - [Luke 8:1-15](#)

Saturday - [Luke 8:16-25](#)



Bible Study with Fr. Jay is every Tuesday evening at 7:00 PM. If anyone is interested in joining the group, contact [Fr. Jay](#).

CAPITAL BUILDING IMPROVEMENT CAMPAIGN

Thank you to all who have contributed to the fund. Everyone is asked to please make a minimum sacrificial gift of \$40 per month. Please use the envelope from your packet or place Building Fund in the Memo section of your check or click the Donation Button or Capital Improvement [Donation Button](#) on our [website](#).

STEWARDSHIP NEWS

Please remember to maintain your pledged financial giving.

Parishioners, please remember to include your envelope number as well as your name on your offering envelope. The number is especially important. If you don't have your envelope number please don't hesitate to contact me. Thanks so much for your help with this. [Judy Tillman](#)

If you have moved and have not sent your new address to the church office at 215-473-3065 or [email](#), **please do so ASAP**. The church has received many returned mailings because of bad addresses. We would appreciate your new address, phone number, and email address. Thanks so much for your help with this.

If you have decided to use the **Givi App** or [Online Giving Donations](#), please email your name and envelope number. Thank you very much. Judy Tillman

FROM STEWARSHIP: A list of the Sick and Shut-In parishioners has been put in Anderson Hall with the Offering Envelopes. If you live near a parishioner who is unable to come to church, it would be much appreciated if you could slot their envelopes. Thank you.

WAYS TO CONTINUE TO BE FAITHFUL TO GOD AND THE CHURCH THROUGH STEWARDSHIP

“To whom much is given, much is required.” Luke 12:48

Ways to continue to be Faithful to God and the Church through Stewardship:

- 1) **Sunday Offering Plate.**
- 2) **Mail in** your check or money order to the church.
Please use the following address:
The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas
c/o Fiscal Administrator.
6361 Lancaster Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19151
- 3) **Use the Givi app.** If you don't already use the app and don't have an account, it's easy to obtain.
Please click the links below for the type of device you own to download the **givi app (givi IOS App)** for your Apple (iPhone, iPad, or iPod touch) or **(givi Android App)** for your Android device. If you have any questions, please speak with **Deadra Cannon**, 215-844-6115.
- 4) **Bring your check** directly to the Parish Office during regular business hours. After business hours, drop your envelope in the door mail slot located on the front patio of the Absalom Jones House.
- 5) **Church website - [Online Giving](#)**
Simply select the button/s on the page that represents where you'd like your payment to be applied, i.e. your pledge, the AJ House, Easter, etc.
- 6) **Pledge Cards:** Pledge cards can now be sent for 2024. Please send them via the US mail or fill out the form **[electronically](#)** through the website or send an email to our **[Fiscal Administrator](#)**. Thank you so much and thank you to all who have sent them in.

MINISTRY STAFF

Bishop	The Rt. Rev. Daniel G P Gutierrez	
Rector	The Very Rev. Canon Martini Shaw	rector@aecst.org
Associate to the Rector	The Rev. Fr. Daren E. Evans	associaterector@aecst.org
Associate Priest	The Rev. Fr. Gerald Collins	associatepriest@aecst.org
Associate Minister	The Rev. Dr. Thomas G. Snowden	dravidian@comcast.net
Associate Minister	The Rev. Dr. Paul Bach	pauljaybach@gmail.com
Executive Asst to Rector	Gladyce DuBrey	1792@aecst.org
Fiscal Administor	Jeannette Jeffrey	fiscal@aecst.org
Sexton	LaDon Elliott	1792@aecst.org
Asst Sexton	David McGilberry	1792@aecst.org
Chancel Choirmaster	Jay Fluellen, DMA	chancelchoir@aecst.org
Gospel Choirmaster	Waltier Blocker	gospelchoir@aecst.org
Rector's General Counsel	Joe Tucker, Esq	jtucker@tigattorneys.com
Altar Guild	Alfreda Brockman	fredabee@verizon.net
Baptism Co-Chairs	Gail Hinton Harris	thegail@hotmail.com
	Patricia Walker-Ellison	p.walker.ellison@gmail.com
Church School Superintendent	Tynecia Wilson	churchschool@aecst.org
Ed Muse Photography Ministry	William Edmonds	edmon57@comcast.net
Fiscal Advisor to the Rector	Deadra Cannon	assistantfiscal@aecst.org
Girls Friendly Society	Nikkol Simms	njsimms@verizon.net
Jazz Ensemble Director	Joe Stevens	jobopss@aol.com
Live Stream Ministry	Yaseen Farooq	livevideo@aecst.org
	Terri Tillman	
Memorial Flowers	Alfreda Brockmam	fredabee@verizon.net
	Clare Mae Daniels	happycmd05@aol.com
Monarch Greeters Ministry	Roy Ellison	s.royellison@gmail.com
Parish Vergers	Stephen Hannum	1792@aecst.org
	Karen Ragland	Kdrags415@gmail.com
Parish Webmaster	Gail Hinton Harris	webmanager@aecst.org
Property Chair	William Burke	property@aecst.org
Scout Pack 133	Howard Chapman	howchapman@gmail.com
	Arlene Gray	bsapack0133@gmail.com
Stewardship Chair	Judy Tillman	stewardship@aecst.org
Transportation Ministry		
Videography Ministry	Quentin Heyward	recordedvideo@aecst.org
Voices of Comfort	Robert Davenport	robertnewtondavenport@gmail.com
William Burke Ushers Ministry	Arlene Singletary	leaniepo302@gmail.com

THE VESTRY

Rector's Warden - Richard Jones
Accounting Warden - Deborah Camp Frye
Clerk of the Vestry - Clare Mae Daniels
Treasurer - Albert S. Dandridge, III Esq.

Brenda Johnson Best
Judith Simkins Booth
William Burke
Deadra Cannon
Wendella Fox, Esq.
Marie Golson
Deborah Harrison
D. Lynn Joell
Kelvin Johnson
Jonathan Muse
Judith Tillman

THE AUXILIARY VESTRY

Conchetta Brewer
Ronnie Collins
Eugene Golson
Dr. Monica Johnson Taylor
Pamela Johnson
Patricia Lynch
Cynthia Muse
Darryle "Bobby" Tillman

THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF SAINT THOMAS is a Christ-centered community that welcomes all people. This community embraces and executes the core values of our founder, the Reverend Absalom Jones: leadership, morality, spirituality, equal rights, education, liberty, charity, justice, humanitarianism, self-determination, self-respect, and freedom. St. Thomas is an open, Christ-centered community of faith in which the Gospel is re-imaged, taught, lived and spread.